

OUTLINE

Gloucester Open Space and Recreation Plan

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CHAPTER 1

PLAN SUMMARY

A. Statement of Purpose

This document is the five-year update of the City of Gloucester's Open Space and Recreation Plan, as required by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). It replaces the 1998-2003 Open Space and Recreation Plan prepared by the City of Gloucester.

Mission Statement

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B. Planning Process and Public Participation

The Gloucester Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) completed this updating of the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Committee started working on the plan in the spring of 2008 and has been focused on this task through much of summer of 2008. Various components of the plan have been discussed at the Committee's monthly meetings, which were/are open to the public. In addition, the Committee held a public meeting(s) on (dates) to collect and incorporate input from citizens of Gloucester. The OSRP approval/adoption process includes approval from the Mayor and City Council and then final submission of this plan to the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services (DCS) within the Executive office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for its approval.

C. Structure of the Plan

The structure of the plan, as reflected in the Table of Contents, is based on the information requirements set out by the Massachusetts DCS (available on their website).

Chapter 1: Plan Summary (this chapter).

Chapter 2: Introduction: A general introduction to the planning process.

Chapter 3: Community Setting: This chapter describes the long history of Gloucester from before colonial times until the present and then discusses the demographic characteristics and recent growth trends as well as the present city infrastructure.

Chapter 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis: This chapter describes the geology, plants and animals that characterize Gloucester and the major environmental issues the city is facing.

Chapter 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest: This chapter is an accounting of existing protected land and unprotected land of open space interest.

Chapter 6: Community Goals: This chapter presents the community's vision for open space.

Chapter 7: Analysis of Needs: This chapter lists priority open space parcels for the next five years as well as needs of the community and management needs.

Chapter 8: Goals, Objectives and Actions: This chapter is a statement of open space goals and objectives as well as actions to accomplish in the next five years.

Chapter 9: Five-year Action Plan

Chapter 10: Public Comments

Chapter 11: References

4. Coordinate with local non-profit land trusts to hold forums for landowners on conservation giving, in collaboration with private non-profit conservation organizations.
5. Work with city government to ensure maintenance of trails and signage at city parks.
6. Identify and install signage at all existing public rights-of-way that lead to parks and other public open spaces. Publicize the existence of these rights of way.
8. Identify parcels that would be appropriate for active recreation.
9. Maintain and periodically update the Gloucester Trails map.
10. Create an Open Space and Recreation Committee webpage.

E. Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

F. Priority Open Space Projects for the Next Five Years.